

THE HELMSMAN

A Publication of the Broward County Council – Navy League of the United States

Larry Ott, President
Wayne McLaren, Editor

September 2021
Volume 32 Issue 3



www.bcnavyleague.org

browardnavyleague@gmail.com

It's Official!

Ft Lauderdale now has a ship named after it



LPD 28 on Christening Day. Pictured in front of the bow is the platform where the official party gathered to break a bottle of sparkling wine over the bow and christen her Fort Lauderdale

PASCAGOULA, Miss. (Aug. 21, 2021) – Huntington Ingalls Industries (NYSE: HII) announced today that its Ingalls Shipbuilding division christened amphibious transport dock *Fort Lauderdale* (LPD 28).

LPD 28 is named *Fort Lauderdale* to honor the Florida city's historic ties to the U.S. Navy, which date back to the 1830s and include an important naval training center during World War II.

Dean Trantalis, the mayor of Fort Lauderdale, was the keynote speaker.

Vice Adm. William Galinis, commander, Naval Sea Systems Command, also gave remarks during the christening ceremony.

The ship's sponsor, Meredith Berger, christened the ship with a bottle of sparkling wine.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fort Lauderdale has been a favorite port for our sea services for many years. Not only US ships but ships from foreign countries have been welcomed here. With this long Naval history and reputation of Fort Lauderdale, the city will be the namesake of a new LPD, the USS Fort Lauderdale. Not only will this ship be named after our city, but it will also be commissioned here. The Christening ceremony was held in Pascagoula, Ms. on Saturday, August 21st.

This past week was the "Kick Off" event for the Commissioning with the CO, Captain Quaresimo and staff being greeted by many enthusiastic members of our community. Chairman, Pat DuMont led the meeting with local and state leaders extending their support. Lynn Elsasser gave a history of the efforts by her late husband, Chuck Black to have a ship named after our city.

I have been honored to be selected as one of the Vice Chairs on the Commissioning Committee. So with that honor and as the President of the Broward County Council I am encouraging all of our members to support this great event with your talent, time and finances.

September is traditionally a special month as our council joins the Fort Lauderdale Council in recognition of the Sea Cadets. The Fort Lauderdale Council is the sponsor for the Spruance Division of the Sea Cadets and September 15th they were featured at the dinner meeting. It is always impressive and interesting to hear these young men and women recount their summer training.

New member, Julie Carlson, has accepted the position of JAG for our council. Welcome to the BCNL Julie and thanks for accepting this position.

Legislative Affairs is one of the focuses of the Navy League and I am pleased to report that members of the board sent 81 letters to Congress for support of issues concerning the sea services.

October is just around the corner and this means Oktoberfest. Broward County and Fort Lauderdale will observe Oktoberfest at the Fort Lauderdale Yacht Club on October 20th. Watch for the flyer for more information.

November we will resume our dinner meetings at Tropical Acres. It's been a long time absence since Covid has interrupted our meetings there. However, I am pleased that Commander Sean Foster from Naval Talent Acquisition Group in Miami will be our speaker.

I encourage all to get involved with the Commissioning of the USS Fort Lauderdale, come out for Oktoberfest and join us in November.

I am looking forward to these upcoming events and hope everyone will join us as we move forward into the rest of the year.

Until next time,

Larry M. Ott

Council President



New Members

Welcome Aboard!

The Council is pleased to welcome the following new members. We look forward to greeting and meeting you in person at a Council social event soon.

Patricia Croonquist
Paul Lacoursiere
Ms. Fabianne Pompee

Coming Events

October

Once again we join Ft. Lauderdale Council for our Oktoberfest Celebration. This year it will be at the Lauderdale Yacht Club on Oct 20

November

On November 11th we return to Tropical Acres for our November Diner Social. This month we are privileged to have CDR Sean Foster, CO of the Talent Acquisition Group in Miami

Sea Cadet Night



Lauderdale Yacht Club - On September 15th as we do each year in September, we joined the Ft. Lauderdale Council for a social highlighted by speakers from Ft Lauderdale Council's Spruance Division of the Sea Cadets. Each of them made a short presentation describing what they had done over the summer in Sea Cadet training sessions.

This year our venue was the Lauderdale Yacht Club where we welcomed over 150 people for the evenings festivities.

In addition to the sea cadet program we were honored to have the PCO of one of the Navy's newest ships, the PCU Fort Lauderdale along with members of the ship leadership team present. Captain Quaresimo the PCO made a few comments reflecting that he had served as executive officer and commanding officer of the USS Cole amongst other ships that had pulled into Fort Lauderdale. He was very familiar with the welcoming that the local community gives back to the military and was very pleased and happy to have the ship commissioned here in Fort Lauderdale.



Who are the Sea Cadets

The Sea Cadets was established by the Navy League of the United States at the request of the Department of the Navy in 1962 to "create a favorable image of the Navy on the part of American youth".

Today the Sea Cadets continue to further the image of our maritime services by:

- Developing an interest and ability in seamanship and seagoing skills
- Instilling virtues of good citizenship and strong moral principles in each cadet
- Demonstrating the value of an alcohol-free, drug-free and gang-free lifestyle
- Exposing cadets to the prestige of public service and a variety of career paths through hands-on training with our nation's armed services

The mission of the Sea Cadets is to build leaders of character by imbuing in our cadets the highest ideals of honor, respect, commitment, and service.



Sea Cadet Presenters



PO2 Calvin Shank

Calvin attended 2 training sessions this year.
(1) Veterinary Medicine Camp in Geneva, FL. While there he was also selected as company Commander for the 9 days. He cared for horses and learned how to shoe horses from the blacksmith.
(2) Calvin also attended SeaBee Training.



PO3 Brandon Cooper

Brandon is 16 years old and has been in program for 4 years. He attended PO Leadership Academy at Army National Camp for 9 days. There he learned leadership skills and also participated in their obsta-



Seaman Katherine Rincon

She attended Ceremonial "Honor Guard" camp. She learned how to prep uniforms also "preparation" striving for readiness and was chosen to present colors at Veterans ball game



PO3/LC4 Jeremy Hernandez

Jeremy attended League Cadet Orientation. While there he learned how to salute, how to care for his uniform, marching and the core values of the Navy



ABC/LC3 Liam Englehardt

Liam attended League Cadet Orientation Camp. He learned honor, courage and commitment and how to stand watch.



PCU Fort Lauderdale

Christening



Fort Lauderdale Mayor Dean Trantalis, LPD 28 Prospective Commanding Officer Capt. James Quaresimo and Ingalls Shipbuilding President Kari Wilkinson, watch as ship sponsor Meredith Berger officially christens amphibious transport dock Fort Lauderdale (LPD 28). Photo by Derek Fountain/HII

Pascagoula, Miss - On August 21st ships sponsor, the Honorable Merideth Berger, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations & Environment (EI&E) spoke the words "I christen thee Fort Lauderdale" and then broke a bottle of sparkling wine over the bow of PCU Ft Lauderdale (LPD 28) thus bestowing the name Fort Lauderdale on LPD28.

And with that the US Navy honored the city's historic ties to the Navy, which date back to the 1830s.

On the platform to represent the city and also deliver the keynote address was the Mayor of Ft Lauderdale Dean Trantalis.

Additionally on the platform to watch ships sponsor Berger christen LPD 28, was Ingalls Shipbuilding President Kari Wilkinson and LPD 28 Prospective Commanding Officer Capt. James Quaresimo.

Commissioning Committee

The Fort Lauderdale is slated to be commissioned in Port Everglades sometime during the summer of 2022. A kick off event was held in Terminal 4 in Port Everglades on Friday September 17 for the USS Fort Lauderdale commissioning committee.

Our own Council President Larry Ott has been honored to serve as a committee vice-chair.

The committee is seeking volunteers to help with the event. They are soliciting all manner of help, from people that have ideas to help make the event truly special, to folks with fundraising capabilities, to people to help plan and organize the event. All manner of skills are needed. If you wish to help out contact Larry or one of the Council's directors. Or alternately you can go to the Council website under events and there will be a link to a form you can fill out and send back.

One of the reasons the Navy decided to name a ship after Ft Lauderdale was because of our hospitality to visiting naval vessels. Here is an opportunity to once again demonstrate that hospitality.



New member, Bob Mossie, Larry and council member Rich Fournier at the committee meeting

What's a PCU??

Pre-commissioning unit (PRECOMUNIT or PCU) is a designation used by the United States Navy to describe vessels under construction prior to their official commissioning. Remember, while the Fort Lauderdale has been christened its still under construction.

Heraldry

It is the custom in the US Navy for ships and other commands to receive an individually designed heraldic emblem. These emblems usually take the form of *seals* or *crests* or *badges*.



Our PCU Ft Lauderdale is no exception. Typically the components of the crest contain items relating to the unit it was named for.

In the case of PCU Ft Lauderdale its various components tend to relate to Ft Lauderdale's history or with its mission.

Going top to bottom

we'll identify a few of the Ft Lauderdale's.

The trident is used to symbolize the ship's ability to strike from the sea. An alligator stands protectively in front of it, representing the "Gator Navy" which refers to a class of Navy ships, including LPDs like the FORT LAUDERDALE, that are designed to support Marine Corps operations. Used as a symbol of ferocity and strength on both land and sea; the alligator further denotes the amphibious function of the vessel. Alligators are also native to Fort Lauderdale and are expressive of the exotic wildlife and landscape the area is known for.

The division of the shield alludes to the shield used on the Great Seal of the United States and is emblematic of Fort Lauderdale's role in American history. The symbol in chief consisting of a fort with palm tree columns is taken from the Fort Lauderdale historical markers used throughout the city to denote points of interest. Representing the city's namesake, the symbol also acknowledges the city's long standing connection to the U.S. Navy. The three palms within the symbol refer to the three forts named "Fort Lauderdale" that existed before construction of the current city. The first fort was at the fork of the New River, the second was just west of Tarpon Bend on the New River, and the third was close to the Bahia Mar Marina

Behind the shield, four swords—a U.S. Navy Officer's sword, U.S. Marine Corps Officer's Mameluke, U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer's cutlass and a U.S. Marine Corps Non-commissioned Officer's sword, all in saltire, points downward to symbolize the synergy between the two services.

Thanks to the Army's institute of Heraldry website

BCNL welcomes new JAG

Let's all welcome Julie Carlson a recent new member to the council's board of directors. Julie has agreed to serve in the role of Judge Advocate.

Julie is the managing attorney of The LIFE LAW PLANNING GROUP, an Estate Planning and Elder Law firm



handling everything from basic Estate Planning, Probate and Guardianship to Veteran's Pension Planning, Medicaid Planning and Applications and Special Needs Planning. Prior to launching the LIFE LAW PLANNING GROUP, Julie's focus was in the area of Information Security and Privacy Law with Oracle Systems Corporation, Hilton Worldwide and SeaWorld Parks and Entertainment.

Julie is licensed to practice in the State of Florida, as well as the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida. She received a Bachelor of Science in Corporate Management from Florida Atlantic University and her Juris Doctorate from NSU Shepard Broad College of Law. In addition, she is a member of ElderCouncil, LLC., National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, Academy of Florida Elder Law Attorneys and the Boca Chamber of Commerce.

Julie is licensed to practice in the State of Florida, as well as the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida. She received a Bachelor of Science in Corporate Management from Florida Atlantic University and her Juris Doctorate from NSU Shepard Broad College of Law. In addition, she is a member of ElderCouncil, LLC., National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, Academy of Florida Elder Law Attorneys and the Boca Chamber of Commerce.

Julie grew up in Florida and enjoys paddle boarding and biking, among other sun and surf related activities. She resides in Fort Lauderdale with her two dogs, Bogie and Bacall.

Did you Know?

The future Fort Lauderdale is the 12th San Antonio-class ship. The ships are designed to support embarking, transporting and bringing ashore elements of 650 Marines by landing craft or air cushion vehicles. The ship's capabilities are further enhanced by a flight deck and hangar, which can operate CH 46 Sea Knight helicopters and the Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft (MV-22). San Antonio-class ships can support a variety of amphibious assault, special operations or expeditionary warfare missions, operating independently or as part of Amphibious Readiness Groups (ARGs), Expeditionary Strike Groups, or joint task forces.

News from our Adopted Units

Coast Guard Miami Air Station

Coast Guard Liaison director Glenn Wiltshire recently paid a visit to Coast Guard Air Station Miami to present AMT2 Alec Douglas with our Air Station Enlisted Person of the Quarter award.



Pictured left to right are AIRSTA CO Capt Koch, AMT2 Alec Douglas, council director Glenn Wiltshire and director Allen Starr.

Station Ft Lauderdale EPOQ

Below is a photo from the EPOQ presentation for MK2 Olalekan Oyeyemi at Station Fort Lauderdale. He was recognized for his outstanding performance as a member of the Station's Naval Engineering Department as well as for being the only engineer certified as an Officer of the Day watchstander at the Station.



Broward County Council Members Visit Coast Guard Miami Station

Council President Larry Ott initiated a visit to Coast Guard Base Miami Beach on August 18, 2021 in recognition of the inability to make such visits in 2020 due to the Covid epidemic. Larry was accompanied by Second Vice President, Bruce Gottsch, and long-time board member, George Reeves.

The president delivered recognition awards (EPOQ) for crew members of the USCGC Bernard C. Webber, one of the councils adopted cutters. Lt. Morton, Webbers Executive Officer and Chief of the Boat, Senior Chief Nicholson escorted the BCNL members on a detailed tour of the Webber.

Also present was the XO of the USCGC Margaret Norvell, LTJG Harkrader. As the Norvell had recently docked, our members weren't able to visit the ship but were glad to at least meet with LTJG Harkrader.



Lt Morton, George Reeves, LTJG Harkrader, Sr Chief Nicholson and Bruce Gottsch.

Adopted Unit News - *continued*

School Supplies for Adopted Units



Former Council President and Director Glenn Wiltshire has had a busy fall. Overall, he collected 3,294 school supply items from four Dollar Tree Stores on behalf of Operation Homefront for distribution to some of our adopted units.

In the pictures that follow you will get an idea of the quantity of the donations.

Bravo Zulu Glenn and thanks to **Dollar Tree Stores**



Base Miami Beach supplies



Supplies provided to Talent Acquisition Group Miami (formerly Navy Recruiting District Miami) with CO CDR Sean Foster and newly arrived Command Master Chief Conroy McKenzie



Supplies provided to Coast Guard Station Ft. Lauderdale



Alan Starr and the new AIRSTA Command Master Chief Bryan Salazar standing next to a few of the boxes of school supplies



Legislative Affairs



Advocating on Behalf of the Sea Services

Advocacy is a main pillar of the Navy League's mission. As a nonprofit organization, we are able to mobilize our grassroots membership to get to the heart of the issues that matter to the sea services,

The next six months will require sustained Navy League legislative advocacy. Here are a few of the items that all Navy League Legislative Affairs members should be aware of.

1. We are already gearing up for the next "Virtual Fly-In" which will now be referred to as our annual Appropriations Push. The President's Budget is expected to drop around the first week of February and this will set off a frenzy of activity to include the publishing of sea service Unfunded Priority Lists, and solicitation by Congressional offices for input on appropriations priorities. During the months of February and March our advocates will be contacting as many Congressional offices as possible to push for our legislative asks based on the needs of the sea services.

We will begin training and preparing for this Appropriations Push this month. Please join us for our Legislative Affairs Committee Meeting to

learn more. For now, our RVPs and VPLAs should be identifying their meeting teams (presenter, recorder, constituent) and trying to find one Navy League member from each Congressional district willing to join the meeting (we need one Navy League Constituent in each district).

2. The House Armed Services Committee has already marked up the National Defense Authorization Act but it has yet to receive a vote from the full House. Will less defense focused members derail the good work of the Armed Services Committee? Not if we have anything to say about it!

3. The prospect of a Continuing Resolution is increasing probable. As we have yet to gain confirmation one way or the other, we can only urge our representatives to avoid this process which would extend previous funding levels and delay the implementation of new programs.

Carlos DelToro confirmed as SecNav

The Honorable Carlos Del Toro was sworn in as the 78th Secretary of the Navy August 9, 2021. As Secretary, he is responsible for over 900,000 Sailors, Marines, reservists, and civilian personnel and an annual budget exceeding \$210 Billion. His priorities include securing the training and equipment successful naval operations demand and addressing the most pressing challenges confronting the US Navy and Marine Corps – China's naval ambitions, climate instability, Covid's ongoing impact, and strengthening a naval culture of inclusiveness and respect.



Born in Havana, Cuba, Del Toro immigrated to the U.S.

with his family as refugees in 1962. Raised in the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood of New York City, he attended public schools and received an appointment to the United States Naval Academy, where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering. Secretary Del Toro was commissioned as a Surface Warfare Officer upon his graduation in 1983.

His 22-year naval career included a series of critical appointments and numerous tours of duty at sea – including First Commanding Officer of the guided missile destroyer USS Bulkeley (DDG 84);

He holds a Masters in National Security Studies from the Naval War College, a Masters in Space Systems Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School, and a Masters in Legislative Affairs from George Washington University.

Sea Cadet Night Photos

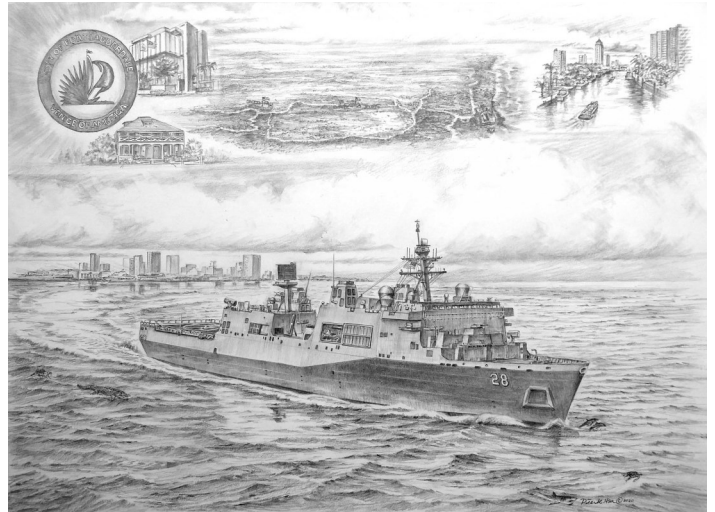


Many thanks to Charlie Schmidt for taking these great shots. To see more go to our website ([http:// BCNavyLeague.org](http://BCNavyLeague.org) and click on Gallery)

and in closing...

Happy Birthday

The United States Coast Guard just celebrated its 231st birthday. The Coast Guard was created on August 4, 1790, when the first Congress authorized Secretary of Treasury Alexander Hamilton to construct ten vessels, known as “revenue cutters,” to combat smuggling and enforce tariff laws. Hamilton carried out his charge with enthusiasm, which is why he is considered to be “the father of the Coast Guard.” For the next eight years, the Coast Guard was the United States’ only armed maritime force.



Christening artwork of PCU Fort Lauderdale by Naval Sea Systems Command artist Mr. Peter Hsu

Our Ghost Fleet

Ghost Fleet Overlord is a project that is being developed by the Department of Defense’s Strategic Capabilities Office. It is a partnership between SCO and the Navy.



USVs Ranger and Nomad unmanned vessels underway in the Pacific Ocean near the Channel Islands on July 3, 2021. US Navy Photo

The pair of Ghost Fleet ships the Navy and the Pentagon’s Strategic Capabilities Office are using as testbeds to prove large autonomous vessels can operate effectively at sea are slowly moving toward completely unmanned operations.

Unlike the medium unmanned surface vessel demonstrators *Sea Hunter* and *Sea Hawk*, the much larger converted off-shore oil and gas support vessels have

yet to cross the threshold of operating with no one aboard, Capt. Pete Small, Navy Program Manager for USVs, told an audience at AUVSI’s unmanned defense conference on Tuesday.

“The current way we operate them is that we pilot the USVs into and out of port in manual mode with a small crew on board. This is consistent with the Navy’s plans for medium USV and large USV,” he said.

“Once the USVs is an open ocean, we make the transition to autonomous mode and continue with operations that include remote mission planning, command and control and supervision from either a shore based or afloat ... on another manned surface vessel’s unmanned operations center. For now, the small crew stays on board during the autonomous operations for supervision of the autonomy and monitoring of automated systems. While we collect data and develop trust in the system performance, we’re actively working towards demonstrations where we will take the crew off the vessel and demonstrate truly unmanned operations at sea.”

The two Ghost Fleet Overlord ships, *Nomad* and *Ranger* traveled from the Gulf Coast to their current California home, only moving into a manned mode when transiting the Panama Canal. The rest of the voyage was controlled from California.